



Provider Advisory Meeting Minutes

December 8, 2022

Workforce Solutions Capital Area Board and BakerRipley staff introductions.

Announcements: None

Logan DeCleene with BakerRipley present:

- **Annual Updates**—all programs will be receiving an email from ccsproviderservices@wfscapitalarea.com over the coming months with information about annual closure day updates. Please make sure your contact information is up to date.
- **Reporting Absences** – All providers are asked to report each time that a child has 5 consecutive absences. This is done online, link to report: https://wfscapitalarea.com-xzivj.formstack.com/forms/providers_submit_excessive_absences. Please connect with parents and encourage regular attendance. Complete the form for each family you are reporting.
- **Provider Referral/Payment Reminders**—the next provider referral emails will go out next week. Please review the email once received to confirm all children are referred correctly. CCS rate increase effective 10/01/22! Reminder: children referred to your program at a blended rate will not change over the winter break.
- **Child Care for Essential Workers (City of Austin)**— ***NEW* Families living in Travis County (outside of the COA full purpose boundary)**, meet the income guidelines, have child under the age of 5 and have at least one parent working in a category above (see slides). Families living in the COA full purpose boundary may enroll children under 13 years of age. Families must select a TRS quality rated center with this program. Providers are asked to provide true attendance for any child enrolled in this program. You will be asked to submit attendance on a monthly basis. Link to Interest Form: https://wfscapitalarea.com-xzivj.formstack.com/forms/childcare_for_essential_workers interest. We have currently outreached all families that were affected by the change. Focus is on children 5 and under but will serve older siblings as well. Income guidelines changed and are effective June 15th (see slides).
- **Austin Public Health Reminders!**—Travis County flu activity continue to surpass recent trends. The likelihood of spreading viruses is heightened during indoor group gatherings. Continue to encourage staff and families to stay home if they are sick or not feeling well.
- **National Handwashing Awareness Week**—December 4-10, 2022 www.henrythehand.org
- **Welcome to the Texas Rising Star Program!**—as of 10/03/22 all Early Learning Programs contracted with Child Care Services must meet Texas Rising Star Entry Level Designation. Programs that meet Entry Level Designation will work to be certified as at least a Texas Rising



Star Two-Star Program by September 30, 2024. Many resources and supports are available to programs working toward TRS Certification, including a TRS Mentor.

- **Texas Rising Star Entry Level Designation Survey**—All Capital Area Entry Level Designated programs are encouraged to complete the following Survey:
<https://forms.gle/KKTuGKKioJd5ERxU9>
- **Texas Rising Star PREP**—will begin in January 2023; WFS Capital Area Mentors will help you achieve TRS Certification by supporting you through evaluation and enhancement of our **Procedures** while building **Relationships** based on **Equity** and developmentally appropriate **Practice**
- **NAEYC/TXAEYC Market Research Survey**—NAEYC needs your expertise to guide how NAEYC and TXAEYC best meet the current and future needs of the child care and early learning sector. As a “thank you” for your time and expertise, interested individuals can add their email address at the end of the survey to be included in a raffle. NAEYC will choose 100 winners for a \$250 gift. Take the Survey here: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/53GZP2F>
- **Child Care Workforce Support Series**—TWC, in partnership with the Texas Health and Human Services Commission and Civitas Strategies Early Start, has compiled a series of videos and resources for Early Learning Programs.
- **Free Texas Annual Training Available Now!**—in partnership with TWC, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension’s Promoting Early Education Quality program is offering a suite of twelve online courses FREE.
- **Training Opportunities** —Check out our Eventbrite Page and never miss a training! 2022-2023 Training Calendar will be available on our Website soon! (www.wfscapitalarea.com). Upcoming Trainings posted through January for registration including: TRS Category Trainings (offered quarterly in English and Spanish), TRS Category 2 Training IN-PERSON on December 10th (Spanish) and December 17th (English) and TRS Orientation on January 12th via Zoom. Our TRS Directors Meetings will continue in January. Next meeting will be Thursday, January 5th, at 12pm and 6pm. Be on the lookout for our monthly CPR/First Aid classes which begin in the new year!
- **BakerRipley Child Care Services Team and Contacts**—Please see PowerPoint for contact information
- **Beginning in 2023**—cadence of the Provider Advisory Council Meeting will change to every other month on the third Thursday at 11:30am

****PowerPoint Presentation Attached****

Open Discussion:

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Loretta J—Michelle was going to try and see if TXAEYC would do the director credential training for free, what is going on with that? Logan is still looking into it to see what we can do. Probably won't have anything worked out for the one in January, but possibly in the future.

Next Meeting: February 16, 2023